Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/908,983	O'SHAUGHNESSY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ting Zhou	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *18 December 2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *3,5,6,8,11-13,15-35,37-40,42-52 and 54-58*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 18 December 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 11-13, 15-35, 37-40, 42-52 and 54-58 as amended are pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gerry Elman (Reg. No. 24,404) on 4 January 2007.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

4. Claim 58 is amended to read:

Claim 58. A method for displaying and manipulating computer files within an information handling system wherein computer files are presented in a general folder structure including one or more activity folders, the method comprising:

automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types;

automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files in one and the same activity folder; and

automatically generating code for associating said separate files of the particular communication with each other;

thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from said activity folder regardless of the application type; and further comprising:

identifying one or more files of one or more application types not associated with a communication; and

storing the identified files in the particular activity folder as separate files that can be manipulated from the activity folder regardless of application type.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 11-13, 15-35, 37-40, 42-52 and 54-58 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches a user interface that combines communications and file management, by which a user can group and access different types of application files related to the same activity together in a general folder structure. Each of the independent claims identifies distinct features:

Claims 22 and 55 identify the distinct feature of "code for manipulating computer files within the activity folder, thereby allowing a user to group and organize subjectively related files of various application types within any of said activity folders, including grouping files which are associated with communications together with files which are not associated with communication within any of said activity folders". The closest prior art, Mellin et al. WO

01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teaches a computer program product comprising code for receiving communications files, wherein a communication file comprises one or more application type files, code for selecting an activity folder where an activity folder has at least one or more separate current user-defined activity, and code for associating the communications files comprising one or more application type files into separate current user defined activity folders, including code for allocating the separate user defined activity folders within the activity folder for each of the communication files comprising one or more application type files, thereby providing an activity folder which includes related communications files comprising one or more application type files in separate user defined activity folders within one activity folder. However, the prior art fails to teach grouping files which are associated with communications, i.e. email messages, with files which are not associated with communications, i.e. documents not associated with email messages together within the activity folders. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim 30 identifies the distinct feature of automatically separating the parts of a communication and storing them together in one and the same activity folder. The closest prior art, Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teach an email program interface for filtering and manipulating email files with attachments. In the case of the Outlook reference, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same

activity folder (Outlook: user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). In the case of the Mellin reference, Mellin teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities) (Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). However, both Outlook and Mellin teaches that emails and their attachments, once extracted, are separated from each other into separating filing systems, and therefore, fails to teach automatically separating the parts of a communication and storing them together in one and same activity folder. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim 54 identifies the distinct feature of the general folder structure containing all applications available to the user on the computer. The closest prior art, Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teach an email program interface for filtering and manipulating email files with attachments. In the case of the Outlook reference, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types,

such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same activity folder (Outlook: user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). In the case of the Mellin reference, Mellin teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities) (Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). However, the prior art fails to teach that the general folder structure for storing each of the files of the communication as separate files contains all applications available to the user on the computer. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim 56 identifies the distinct feature of determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as a sticker to all the other resulting messages and deleting the first resulting box from the inbox. The closest prior art, Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teach an email program interface for filtering and manipulating email files with attachments. In the case of the Outlook reference, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or

more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same activity folder (Outlook: user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). In the case of the Mellin reference, Mellin teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities) (Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). However, the prior art fails to teach "determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as a sticker to all the other resulting messages and deleting the first resulting box from the inbox. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim 57 identifies the distinct feature of if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; if the message includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication, determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication and decoding the one or more files of the communication according

to the form of encoding. The closest prior art, Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teach an email program interface for filtering and manipulating email files with attachments. In the case of the Outlook reference, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same activity folder (Outlook: user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). In the case of the Mellin reference, Mellin teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities) (Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). However, the prior art fails to teach "if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; if the message includes parts which are not one of the one or more files of the communication, determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication and decoding the one or more files of the

communication according to the form of encoding". Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim 58 identifies the distinct feature of identifying one or more files of one or more application types not associated with a communication and storing the identified files in the particular activity folder as separate files that can be manipulated from the activity folder regardless of application type. The closest prior art, Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teach manipulating the files associated with a communication separately within an activity folder. In the case of the Outlook reference, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same activity folder (Outlook: user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). In the case of the Mellin reference, Mellin teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities)

(Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). However, the prior art fails to teach manipulating files that are associated with communications, i.e. email messages, with files that are not associated with communications, i.e. documents not associated with email messages within the activity folders. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ

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Primary Examiner